

Message Text

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ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EB-08 ISO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
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INFO USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON ENG
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN GER
ESD HANSCOM FLD MASS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 07100

SECDEF FOR ISA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAIR, MARR, MASS, SP
SUBJECT: SPANISH AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL SYSTEM

REF: (A) FAA WSP-78-40 (DTG 162050Z JUN 78) (NOTAL)
(B) HQ USAF 131445Z JUN 78 (NOTAL)

1. WE ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED BY THE REFERENCED TELEGRAMS,
WHICH INDICATE A LACK OF COMMON UNDERSTANDING OF THE ISSUES
AND THE STAKE HERE AS WE PROCEED ON THE DIFFICULT COURSE
OF PARALLEL COOPERATION AND COORDINATION WITH TWO SEPARATE
SPANISH AGENCIES (FAA/SPANISH MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND
COMMUNICATIONS; USAF/SPANISH AIR FORCE) WITH RESPECT TO
INSTALLATION OF A MORE MODERN AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL SYSTEM
IN SPAIN.

2. CAAG, JUSMG, AND ALL OTHER ELEMENTS OF THIS MISSION ARE
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USING EVERY OPPORTUNITY AT THIS END TO ASSURE THAT WE
RESPOND TO THE WISHES OF THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT AND NOT
SIMPLY ONE OR ANOTHER OF ITS ENTITIES. TO THIS END WE HAVE
UNDERTAKEN FURTHER TALKS WITH SENIOR GOS CIVILIAN AND
MILITARY AUTHORITIES. WE HAVE BEEN REASSURED THAT THE
DEFENSE MINISTRY AND THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND
COMMUNICATIONS BOTH STAND BEHIND THE OPERATIONAL EMPLOYMENT

PLAN (OEP) SIGNED IN MAY BY THE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE SPANISH AIR FORCE, AND THAT A CONSCIOUS DECISION WAS MADE BY THE TWO MINISTERS CONCERNED NOT TO RAISE THE MATTER IN THE CABINET AT THIS TIME. THEIR AGREEMENT PROVIDES FOR A CONTINUATION WITH ALL DUE DISPATCH OF THE WORK ON A NEW MADRID AIR CONTROL CENTER LINKED TO PHASE TWO OF THE COMBAT GRANDE PROGRAM, INCLUDING PROVISION OF A BACK-UP SECTOR OPERATIONS CENTER (SOC) FOR COMBAT GRANDE. THE SIGNIFICANT OPERATIONAL ADVANTAGES FOR THE TWO AIR FORCES OF A LINKED SYSTEM ARE RECOGNIZED.

3. THIS OEP IS NOT YET A GUARANTEE THAT THE LINKED APPROACH WILL BE CARRIED THROUGH TO CONCLUSION. THE SUB-SECRETARY OF CIVIL AVIATION REMAINS CONVINCED THAT A PARALLEL STUDY OF THE POSSIBILITY OF A CIVILIAN CENTER MEETING ESSENTIAL CIVILIAN NEEDS AND NOT LINKED TO A BACK-UP SOC MAKES GOOD POLITICAL AND FISCAL SENSE, AGAINST THE POSSIBILITY THE GOVERNMENT MIGHT DECIDE IN THE END AGAINST THE BACK-UP SOC. HE HAS BEEN DISCUSSING WITH CAAG MADRID ITS POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE IN THIS STUDY, AND AWAITS ONLY THE BLESSING OF HIS MINISTER TO PROCEED. THE ALTERNATIVE HE SEES, AND HE DISCUSSED THIS ON JUNE 23 WITH THE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE SPANISH AIR FORCE, WOULD BE A FORMAL LETTER FROM THE DEFENSE MINISTER STATING DEFINITELY THAT A BACK-UP SOC IS REQUIRED FOR SPANISH SECURITY. THIS, UNDER SPANISH LEGISLATION CONCERNING AIRSPACE, WOULD, HE SAYS, END ALL CONFIDENTIAL

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FURTHER DISCUSSION, AND BE TANTAMOUNT TO A FINAL DECISION TO TAKE THE MADAC PROGRAM TO FULL COMPLETION. WE WILL JOIN IN PRESSING FOR AN EARLY DEFINITE DECISION ON A BACK-UP SOC

4. SHOULD THE PARALLEL EFFORT GO FORWARD WE THEN DO NOT EXPECT A FINAL GOS DECISION ON THIS MATTER, WHICH TOUCHES VARIOUS SENSITIVE NERVES HERE IN SPAIN, BEFORE EARLY NEXT YEAR. THE SPANISH MINISTRIES CONCERNED ARE PREPARED, SHOULD SPAIN THEN OPT FOR AN ENTIRELY CIVIL SYSTEM, TO SACRIFICE THE INVESTMENT OF SOME \$1.75 MILLION WHICH WILL HAVE BEEN MADE BY THEN IN THE LINKED SYSTEM ENVISAGED IN THE OEP.

5. HOWEVER, THERE IS NO DOUBT AT ALL THAT THE OEP SPEAKS FOR THE SPANISH AT THIS TIME. IT IS THEREFORE IN THE U.S. INTEREST TO PROCEED WITH DISPATCH IN ITS IMPLEMENTATION.

6. WE WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE REASSURING US OF THE U.S. COMMITMENT TO RAPID AND FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OEP FOR USE IN OUR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT. IN THE MEANTIME WE WILL REMAIN IN THE CLOSEST CONTACT WITH SPANISH AUTHORITIES CONCERNED, WILL MAINTAIN FULL COORDINATION AT THIS END, AND WILL KEEP YOU ADVISED OF ANY

NEW DECISIONS OR ACTIONS ON THE PART OF THE SPANISH
GOVERNMENT. EATON

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